



Sonoma County LEAP Board

Membership Application Description

The purpose of the LEAP Board is to advise the Sonoma County CoC Board on homeless-related policies and how to spend money targeted for homeless services. The LEAP will also advise and plan with the CoC Board and homeless service agencies how to improve homeless services, shelters, and housing.

The LEAP Board is a 14 member group of community members who have experienced homelessness and who are current residents of Sonoma County.

We gather every 2 weeks to discuss elements of being sheltered, unsheltered and living in housing programs.

We closely follow various boards and committees associated with the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition(SCHC) Board, which is a 17 member board composed of elected officials, homeless services providers, lived experience members, at large community members, and representation from local tribal nations.

The SCHC evaluates homeless services and is responsible for processing grant funding allocation to homeless services providers. The lead agency of the SCHC is the Sonoma County Department of Health, Homeless Services Division.

The LEAP Board has 1 standing seat on the SCHC and LEAP members are invited to join various subcommittees. In order to include the perspectives of people who have utilized homeless services, it is crucial for us to be involved in all areas of the homeless system of care. Once a LEAP Member, you may apply to join 1 or more of these subcommittees if you are interested.

The LEAP member term is 2 years with ability to reapply. Small compensations are given for meeting attendance. There is a governance charter to follow. We are a private, confidential group, we share updates at SCHC meetings and on 'approved by board' cases. There are opportunities for members to join and lead task groups on various topics.

If you are interested in applying for a position on the LEAP Board please complete as much of the application as you can and send to Andrew Akufo, andrew.akufo@sonoma-county.org. An incomplete application does not bar you from being considered, however the more information you can share, the better we can consider your admission.

Lived Experience Advisory & Planning (LEAP) Board Application

Objective

The Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board is composed of diverse people with lived experience of homelessness, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic diversity in its composition.

The purpose of the LEAP Board is to advise and plan with the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board and homeless service agencies how to improve homeless programs, services, shelters, and housing.

Eligibility

Candidates will be currently or formerly homeless and a Sonoma County resident.

Applicants with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodation will be made so that applicants with disabilities may participate in the application process. If you seek accommodation, please email Andrew.Akufo@Sonoma-County.org.

How to Apply

Answer the following questions and submit the application to Andrew.Akufo@Sonoma-County.org. Applications can also be dropped off at the County of Sonoma Department of Health Services Administration Unit, 1450 Neotomas Ave. Ste. 200, Santa Rosa CA or you can also fill out the application online <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8SMWDY2>. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Call Andrew at 405-213-9957 for any questions.

1. First name: _____ Last name: _____

2. Telephone number (if available): () _____

3. Email address: _____

4. Mailing address (if available):

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip code _____

5. Age: _____ 6. Sex _____ 7. Race/Ethnicity: _____

8. Bilingual? Language _____ Beg _____ Intermediate _____ Fluent _____

9. Are you a Sonoma County resident? Yes: _____ No: _____

10. Have you ever worked for a homeless service provider (paid by an agency with a government contract to provide homeless services)? Yes: _____ No: _____ **If so, when and for how long?** _____

11. Homeless Experience Background:

Please tell us about your background, to help us ensure diversity on the Board. Please only provide information you are comfortable sharing. Do your best to answer the questions below. We want to understand you. **An incomplete application does not bar you from consideration.**

- Previously homeless
 When and for how long? _____
- Currently homeless
 For how long? _____
- Currently housed
 For how long? _____
- Have you couch surfed?
 When and for how long? _____
- Stayed in any adult-only shelters?
 When and for how long? _____
- Stayed in any family shelters?
 When and for how long? _____
- Stayed in your car or RV?
 When and for how long? _____
- Slept outside/camped?
 When and for how long? _____
- Other accommodation while unhoused? _____
- Ever accompanied by children while experiencing homelessness? Yes ___ No ___

If so, when and for how long? _____

Skills/Experience

12. Are you available to meet on Zoom, up to twice a month, for 1.5-2 hours for regularly scheduled LEAP meetings?
Yes: ___ No: ___

13. Comfortable speaking at a public meeting? Yes: ___ No: ___

14. Do you have any experience serving on a board or committee? Yes ___ No ___

If so, please describe role:

15. Chaired/facilitated meetings? Yes ___ No ___

16. Do you have knowledge of Robert’s or Rosenberg’s Rules of Order or other formats?
(Yes ___ or No ___?)

17. Would you be interested in holding a position on the Board? Please check all that apply:

- Chair/President**
- Vice Chair/Vice President**
- Minute Taker**
- Timekeeper**

Computer Skills:

17. Do you have access to Zoom? Yes____ No ____

Interests

18. Please check which topics you are most interested in addressing:

- Shelter design and policies
- Encampment sweeps
- Safe parking
- Tiny villages
- More affordable housing units
- Increasing # of vouchers
- Emergency services and solutions for people outside

- Other(s)_____

19. Please check all Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Committees you are interested in learning more about/joining:

- Homeless Coalition Board (CoC)
- Funding and Evaluation
- Coordinated Entry
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Strategic Planning
- Street Outreach Standards

Other _____

20. Please give some examples of barriers you faced to becoming sheltered, housed, or obtaining needed services during your homeless experience. Can you share unique **possible solutions** you've thought of? (Examples: People outside need more shower access. Sheltered and unsheltered people need a desk with file storage from which to do the full-time desk work of getting out of homelessness.)

21. Please give some examples of solutions you are passionate about

22. Do you have any other education, work, skills, volunteer or life experiences you have to contribute, and would like to share with the LEAP Board?
